

MARVEL[®]
COMICS

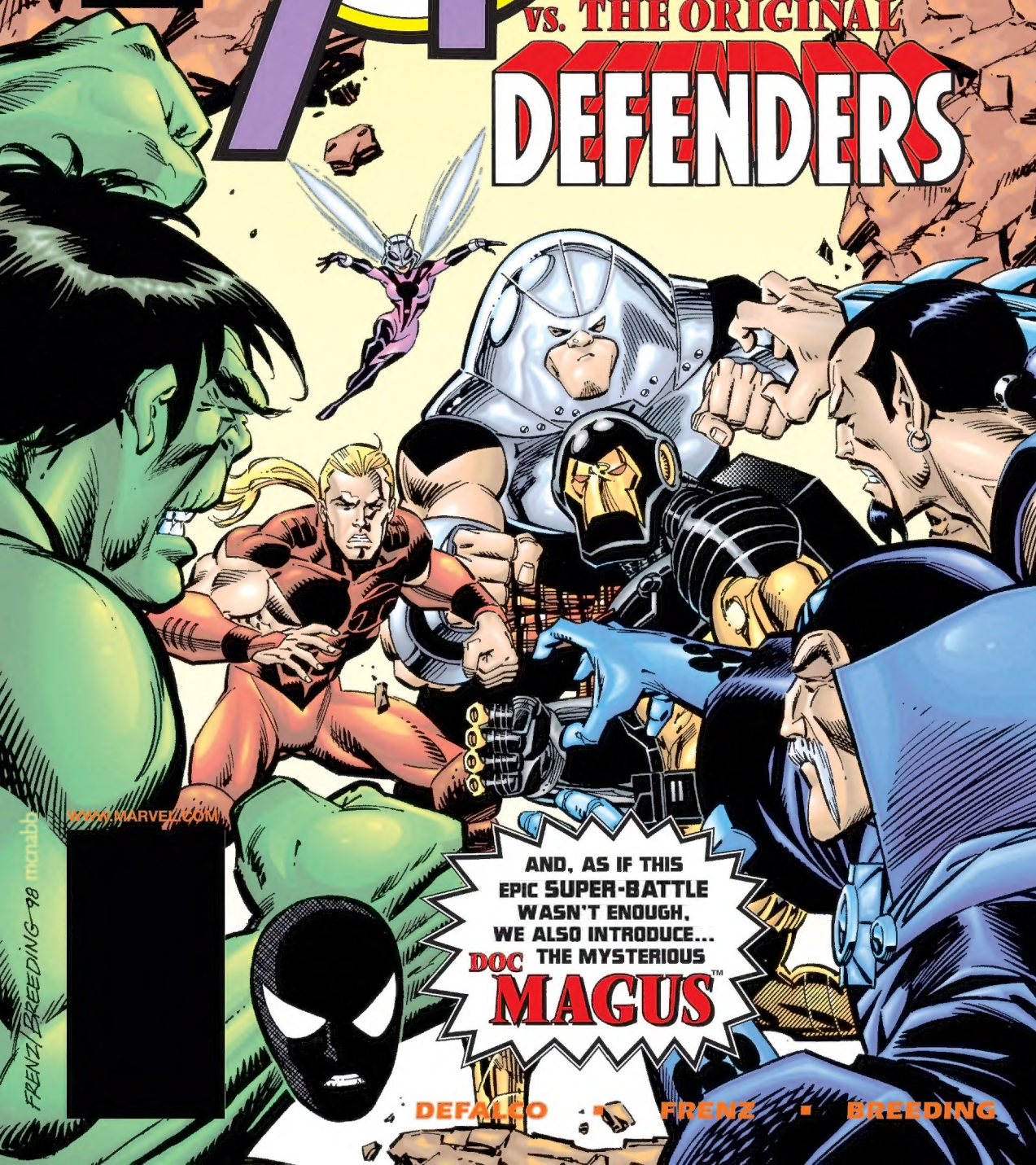


DEC
#3

THE NEXT GENERATION
OF **AVENGERS!**

A NEXT

VS. THE ORIGINAL
DEFENDERS



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AND, AS IF THIS
EPIC SUPER-BATTLE
WASN'T ENOUGH,
WE ALSO INTRODUCE...

DOC THE MYSTERIOUS
MAGUS

DEFALCO

FRENZ

BREEDING

FRENZ BREEDING '98 monabb

SOMEWHERE IN GREENWICH VILLAGE, A BROODING FIGURE-- A MAN HAUNTED BY DEMONS PAST AND PRESENT-- STUDIES A SHIMMERING IMAGE. HE IS DOCTOR STRANGE, THIS PLANET'S FORMER SORCERER SUPREME, AND A FUTURE OPPONENT OF...

FEATURING...

A NEXT

STARRING...

The
INSCRUTABLE
DOCTOR
STRANGE

THE PORTENTS ARE UNMISTAKABLE! THE OMENS CANNOT BE CONTESTED!

THE VERY EXISTENCE OF HUMANITY IS AGAIN THREATENED BY FORCES FATAL AND MUNDANE!

AFTER SO MANY YEARS, THE TIME IS COME FOR ANOTHER GATHERING OF THOSE WHO ONCE DEFENDED THE EARTH IN SECRET AND SHADOW!

THE MIGHTY
MAINFRAME

THE
HULK

THUNDERSTRIKE

THE
SAVAGE
SUB-MARINER

AND
INTRODUCING...

THE
ENIGMATIC
DOC
MAGUS

THOSE WHO BE THE HEROES OF DARK RENOWN!

THE SUPER-POWERED

STINGER

THE UNSTOPPABLE

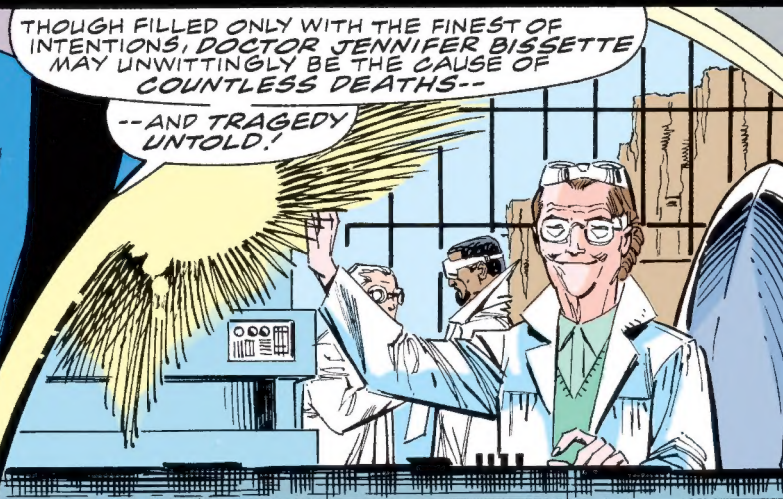
AND NOW, LET THIS EPIC TALE BEGIN--!



IRONIC, IS IT NOT?

THOUGH FILLED ONLY WITH THE FINEST OF INTENTIONS, DOCTOR JENNIFER BISSETTE MAY UNWITTINGLY BE THE CAUSE OF COUNTLESS DEATHS--

--AND TRAGEDY UNTOLD!



YADA YADA YADA! SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE GETTING CARRIED AWAY WITH YOUR OWN ARCAINE VERBIAGE, OLD MAN.

DORMAGUS--!

HOW DARE YOU SEND YOUR ASTRAL SPIRIT INTO MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM WITHOUT PROPER LEAVE?

I'VE TOLD YOU THE NAME'S DOC MAGUS, BUDDY BOY!

IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, I'VE BEEN THE MAJOR MYSTIC IN THESE PARTS EVER SINCE THE VISHANTI FIRED YOUR BUTT.

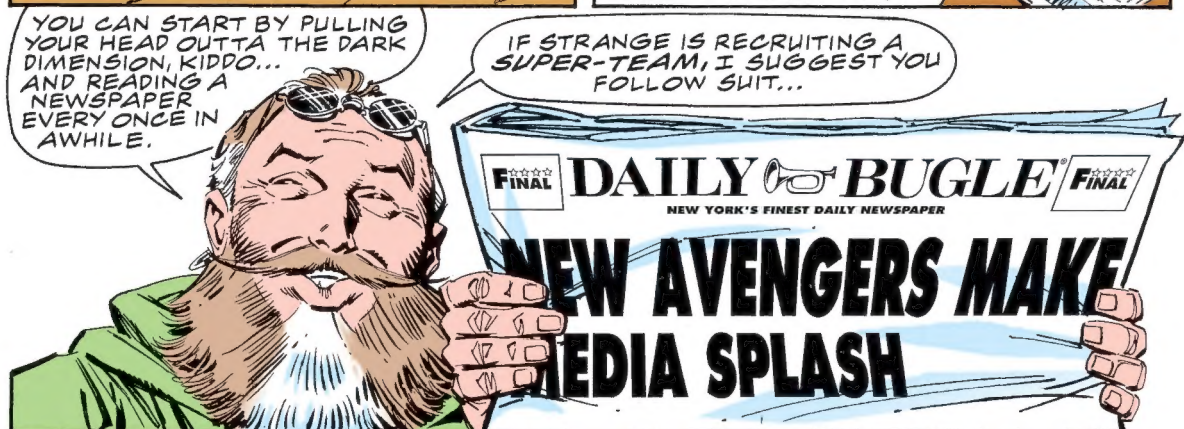
PACK UP THE OLD CRYSTAL BALL, STRANGE! IF THIS PLANET REALLY IS IN DANGER, I DON'T WANT YOU INTERFERING WITH MY PLAY.

YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME, WHELP...

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU--ZUIP?

BEGONE! I WILL NOT SUFFER SUCH DISRESPECT.

I SHALL ATTEND TO THE COMING PERIL IN MY OWN WAY ...AND WITH ALLIES OF MY OWN CHOOSING!



DOWN 'N' DIRTY WITH THE DEFENDERS

STAN LEE PRESENTS...
TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENZ
WORDS/PLOT/PENCILS
JIM NOVAK
CALLIGRAPHY

BOB SHAREN
COLOR ARTIST

BRETT BREEDING
FINISHED ART
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR SUPREME

A FEW HOURS LATER, ON A SMALL ISLET OFF THE COAST OF MOLOKAI...

T-THIS IS SO BEAUTIFUL, JOSÉ!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE MAN AT THE HOTEL MARINA TRIED TO DISCOURAGE US FROM SAILING HERE.

EVERYONE HAS AN AGENDA, KIMMY--

--BUT A CHILD WOULDN'T BELIEVE HIS RIDICULOUS TALE OF AN ANCIENT MARINER WHO HAUNTS THESE ISLES!

FOOLS! YOU SHOULD HAVE HEEDED THE WARNING--!

RISING FROM THE SEA, A BEDRAGGLED FIGURE SUDDENLY STORMS FORWARD-- HIS VOICE LOUD WITH FURY, HIS EYES PULL WITH DESPAIR!

GO! LEAVE AT ONCE!

NAMOR THE LOST HAS NO DESIRE FOR COMPANY! HE WISHES TO BE ALONE WITH HIS TORMENT!

IS THIS HOW THE FORMER MONARCH SUPREME OF ATLANTIS NOW BIDES HIS TIME?

MY KINGDOM IS ONLY A MEMORY, STRANGE.

IT WAS DESTROYED YEARS AGO BY THE MAD DESPOT DOCTOR DOOM!

ON WHOM YOU HAVE ALREADY TAKEN A MOST TERRIBLE VENGEANCE!

AS TERRIBLE AS IT WAS JUST! WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?

I-IT'S THE SUB-MARINER!

BUT HE VANISHED YEARS AGO!

L-LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, JOSÉ!

EVER SINCE THE LOSS OF YOUR PEOPLE--

--YOU HAVE BEEN ADRIPT ON A SEA OF SELF-PITY!!

THE EARTH IS IN DANGER, OLD FRIEND... AND I COME TO YOU AS A FORMER COMRADE-IN-ARMS!

CAN YOU FIND THE COURAGE AND HONOR TO AID US?

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEW GENERATION OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES...

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN ASSEMBLING THIS SHORT LIST OF TECHNICAL ADVISORS, SHANNON.

MY PLEASURE, MR. JARVIS-- BUT DO THE AVENGERS REALLY NEED TO HIRE AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT?

MAINFRAME SEEMS TO POSSESS THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE.

THAT'S TRUE, SHANNON, BUT HE IS A ~~3~~4HEM3 FIELD OPERATIVE.

WE NEED A FULL-TIME TECHNICIAN.

MR. JARVIS, I KNOW THE TEAM IS STILL IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF ESTABLISHING ITSELF, BUT I WAS WONDERING IF-- SIR!

LOOK!

MY WORD-- AN INTRUDER!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, SIR... BUT YOU WOULD BE WELL-ADVISED TO STATE YOUR BUSINESS... AND QUICKLY!

YOU HEARD THE MAN --SPEAK UP!

IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT--

PLLLLEASSSSSE--!

I APOLOGIZE IF I STARTLED YOU, BUT I CAN DO WITHOUT THE USUAL GRATUITOUS THREATS.

I'VE COME TO ASK THE AVENGERS TO HELP ME SAVE A LIFE.

AND, QUITE POSSIBLY... A WORLD.

MINUTES LATER AT THE
MANHATTAN INSTITUTE
FOR THE ARTS...

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN
DOING WITH YOURSELF
SINCE YOU FOUND YOUR
OWN PLACE, KEVIN?

A LITTLE OF THIS
AND THAT, MARIA.
HOW'S THE
FAMILY?

POP'S CRANKY
AS USUAL, BUT HE
ASKED ME TO
INVITE YOU OVER
FOR SUNDAY
DINNER.

I'M ALWAYS
DOWN FOR A
DAY WITH THE
SAPRISTI
CLAN.

ZZZZZZZZ

OOPS! THERE GOES
MY BEEPER.

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T
WALK YOU TO YOUR
DANCE CLASS, MARIA.
I'VE GOT TO MOTOR!

NO PROB!

YOU OFF
TO AN ART
CLASS?

NOT TODAY! I'VE GOT TO
...UHHH... HELP A FRIEND!

WITH AN ART
EMERGENCY--?!

AS IFFFF!

I'LL
CATCH YOU
ON SUNDAY,
MARIA.

MR. MASTERSON,
COULD YOU BE ANY
MORE GORGEOUS?!

SEEKING A CONVENIENT (AND
CLASSICALLY DESERTED) ALLEY,
KEVIN MASTERSON UTTERS A
SINGLE WORD...

THUNDERSTRIKE!

KRAKA-
BOOM!

BARELY AN INSTANT PASSES BEFORE THE
YOUNG HERO IS STREAKING TOWARD
AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS IN HIS OWN
UNIQUE MANNER...

BY DIRECTING MY
THUNDERBLASTS AT THE
GROUND, I CAN CATAPULT
MYSELF INTO THE AIR,
TRAVELING SEVERAL MILES
AT A TIME.

MY LANDINGS,
HOWEVER, ARE
STILL A TRIFLE
JARRING.

JUST THEN, IN A SUBURB OF DENVER, COLORADO...

BRUCE BANNER--! WE MUST SPEAK!

DOCTOR STRANGE?! IS IT REALLY YOU AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?

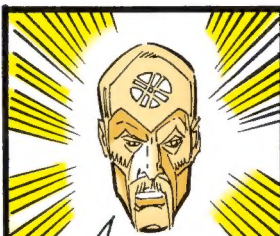
W-WHAT IS HE, DAD--SOME KIND OF GHOST?!

THE WORLD HAS NEED OF YOU, BANNER...

ME?! I DON'T THINK YOU'D TRAVEL ALL THIS WAY FOR A RETIRED NUCLEAR PHYSICIST.

FORGET IT! THE ONE YOU NEED IS GONE FOREVER!

I HAVE A REAL LIFE NOW.



I AM AFRAID THAT REFUSAL IS NOT AN OPTION!

STRANGE, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, PLEASE DON'T BUGGNE

R-RUN, DAVID! RUN!

YOUR SON IS IN NO DANGER, SINCE IT IS MY MAGIC WHICH EVEN NOW TRIGGERS THE GAMMA RAYS THAT STILL RESIDE WITHIN YOU--

DAD--?!

DAD!

--I WILL HAVE TOTAL MENTAL CONTROL OVER THE INCREDIBLE HULK WHO EMERGES FROM THIS PARTICULAR TRANSFORMATION!

RRRAHG!

DAD--?!

WITH MUSCLES SO POWERFUL THAT HE ALMOST SEEMS TO BE FLYING, THE MIGHTIEST CREATURE ON THE EARTH RESPONDS TO DOCTOR STRANGE'S URGENT SUMMONS WITH A SERIES OF FANTASTIC LEAPS--!

AN HOUR LATER,
BACK AT
AVENGERS
HQ...

SORRY I'M SO LATE... BUT
MY BUS GOT STUCK IN
TRAFFIC.

AS FASCINATING AS WE MAY
FIND JUGGIE'S TRAVEL
ARRANGEMENTS--

--I'M PRETTY
SURE MR. JARVIS
CALLED US HERE
FOR A REASON.

Y-YOU CAME
BY PUBLIC
TRANSPOR-
TATION--?!

NOT ALL OF
US ARE BLESSED
WITH WINGS,
MISS LANG.

YES...YES... BRIEFLY
PUT...I HAVE FINALLY
TAKEN THE LIBERTY
OF RETAINING A
TECHNICAL ADVISOR
...WHO WILL BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR
UPGRADING AND
MAINTAINING
ALL OF OUR
HARDWARE.

HE'S A MAN OF
VAST EXPERIENCE,
WHO ONCE HELD A
SIMILAR POSITION
WITH THE
FANTASTIC
FIVE.

IT IS
WITH GREAT
PLEASURE I
INTRODUCE
YOU TO
SCOTT
LANG!

ACTUALLY, BACK IN THOSE
DAYS, THEY WERE STILL
CALLED THE FANTASTIC
FOUR... BUT... ANYWAY...
HELLO, EVERYONE!

I...I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS--!

DADDY?! Y-YOU DID THIS ON PURPOSE--!

POOR
CASSIE--!

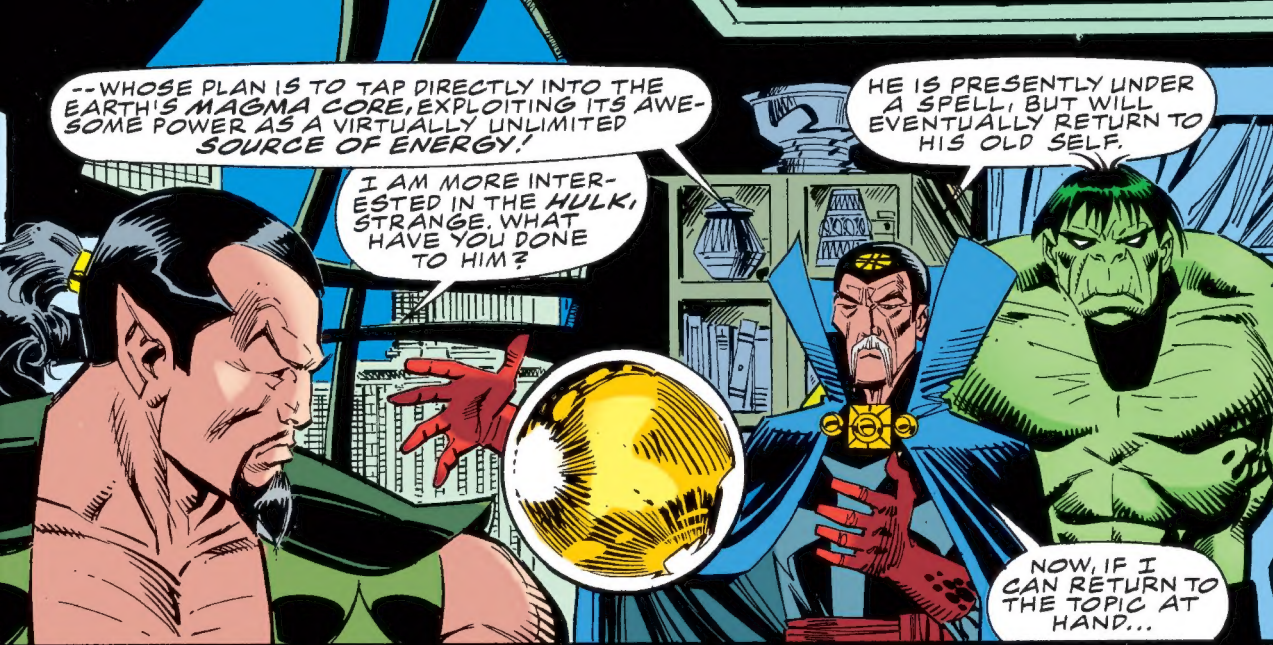
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE
SURPRISED! ISN'T IT
GREAT, CUPCAKE? WE
GET TO WORK TO-
GETHER HERE... AS
WELL AS OUR
PRIVATE LAB!

HARRUMPE WE CAN DISCUSS MR.
LANG'S APPOINTMENT LATER.

WE HAVE
ANOTHER GUEST
...ONE WHO COMES
TO US WITH AN
URGENT CRISIS!

THANKS FOR
THE SNAPPY
INTRO,
MAINFRAME.

I'M DOC MAGUS,
AND I NEED YOUR
HELP TO PROTECT A
SCIENTIST--



--WHOSE PLAN IS TO TAP DIRECTLY INTO THE EARTH'S MAGMA CORE, EXPLOITING ITS AWE-SOME POWER AS A VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED SOURCE OF ENERGY!

HE IS PRESENTLY UNDER A SPELL, BUT WILL EVENTUALLY RETURN TO HIS OLD SELF.

I AM MORE INTERESTED IN THE HULK, STRANGE. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

NOW, IF I CAN RETURN TO THE TOPIC AT HAND...



BY MANNERS TOO ARCAINE TO EXPLAIN, I HAVE PIERCED THE ENCHANTED VEIL... AND FORESEEN A POSSIBLE FUTURE.

IF DOCTOR BISSETTE'S WORK CONTINUES UNHAMPERED, THE ULTIMATE CONCLUSION WILL BE A CATACLYSM BEYOND DESCRIPTION.

FOR THE SAKE OF ALL MANKIND, THIS WOMAN MUST BE STOPPED--

--EVEN IF OUR EFFORTS RESULT IN HER DEATH!



SO THIS STRANGE GUY IS SOME KINDA MASTER MAGICIAN?

HE'S GROWN MORE RUTHLESS AND BITTER WITH AGE.

AND YOU KIDS BELIEVE YOU CAN TAKE HIM?! THE SUB-MARINER IS AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL AFTER WHAT HE DID TO LATVERIA, AND THE HULK-- DON'T GET ME STARTED ON HIM!

YEAH... LIKE YOU'RE A BIT ON THE WEIGHTY SIDE!

I HEARD STRANGE OFTEN MANIPULATED PEOPLE, BUT NEVER THOUGHT HE'D RESORT TO COLD-BLOODED MURDER!

ARE YOU GOING ON RECORD THAT YOUR FIRST PIECE OF ADVICE IS THAT... THE AVENGERS SHOULD DO NOTHING?!

WELL... UHHHHH... NO!

ENOUGH TALK! WE NEED TO PREP A QUINJET!

A FEW HOURS LATER,
AND A COUPLE OF
DOZEN MILES FROM
THE GRAND CANYON,
IN THE GREAT STATE
OF
ARIZONA...

THE WOMAN IS WITHIN THAT
RESEARCH CENTER, NAMOR.
THE HULK AND I WILL REMAIN
OUT HERE... WHILE YOU
ATTEND TO HER.

DON'T WORRY, STRANGE!
I HAVE HEARD YOUR
HORROR STORIES, AND
KNOW WHAT MUST
BE DONE!

ME?! WHY ME?

ARE
YOU HAVING
SECOND
THOUGHTS, OLD
FRIEND?

THAT KIND OF
CLARITY MUST
BE A REAL
BLESSING, HUH?!

BY THE
SACRED HORN OF
PROTEUS-- NO!

BY THE BLOATED BELLY OF
MY EVER-LOVIN', BLUE-EYED
UNCLE BEN-- YES!

NAMOR USED TO
HANG WITH THE FF
WHILE DAD STILL
WORKED THERE...
BUT THAT WAS
LONG BEFORE...
LATVERIA!

WOW! I HEARD
THE HULK WAS
HUGE BUT...

WOW!

MY MONEY'S ON YOU, LOCO-
MOTIVE BREATH! YOU GOT
YOUTH AND ENTHUSIASM
ON YOUR SIDE!

HOO-BOY--!

STOP WHERE
YOU STAND... BY
ORDER OF THE
AVENGERS!

IT'S OVER, STRANGE!
WE'RE PREPARED TO DO
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO
PROTECT DR. BISSETTE.

ARE YOU,
DORMAGUS--?

WE SHALL
SEE...

HULK!

PLEASE ATTEND TO
THESE MEDDLESOME
BUFFOONS!



SHRINKING TO INSECT-SIZE AND IGNORING HER BETTER JUDGMENT, STINGER STREAKS DIRECTLY INTO THE MONSTER'S EAR CANAL--!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE ACTUALLY BATTLING THE ORIGINAL DEFENDERS!

THIS WILL BE OUR BAPTISM OF FIRE--

--OR ONE TERRIFIC I-TOLD-YOU-SO FOR MY DAD!

IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, THIS BLAST SHOULD THROW OFF THE HULK'S SENSE OF BALANCE... AND GIVE JUGGIE THE OPENING HE'LL NEED!

BZZZKT!

AAARRRGH!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, JUGS?

GO, BOY!
GO!

Y-YOU ACTUALLY MANAGED TO STUN THE HULK--!

I'LL TAKE THE COMPLIMENT--

--AND IGNORE THE SURPRISE IN YOUR VOICE!

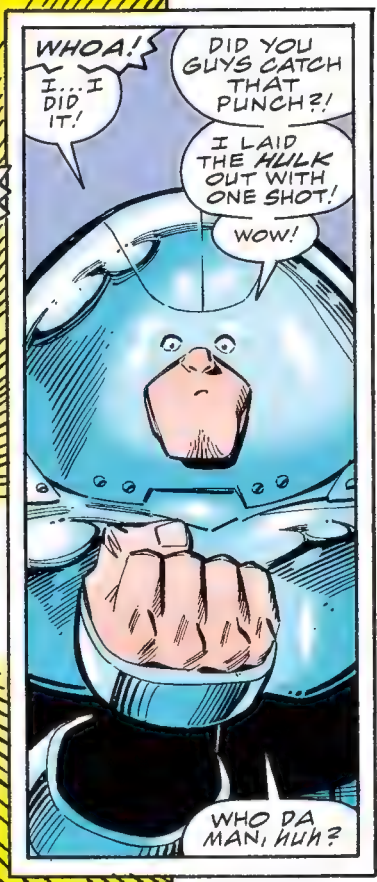
Y'KNOW... SEEING WHAT YOU DID... GIVES ME MORE CONFIDENCE!

MAYBE WE REALLY DO HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST THESE GUYS!



SPAK-KROOM!

MAYBE WE REALLY CAN --HEY!



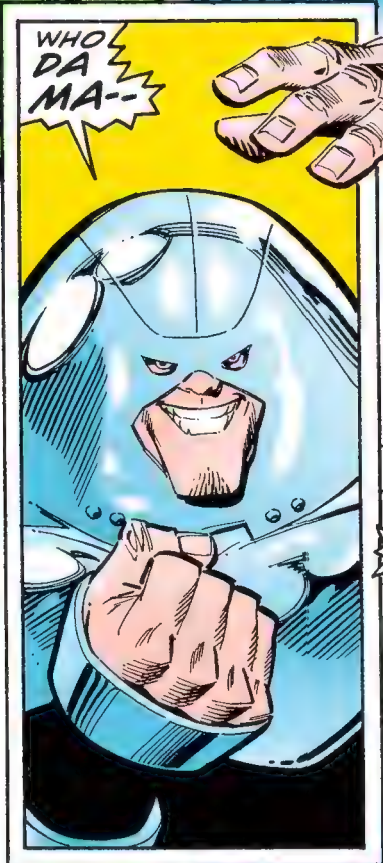
WHOA!
I...I DID IT!

DID YOU GUYS CATCH THAT PUNCH?!

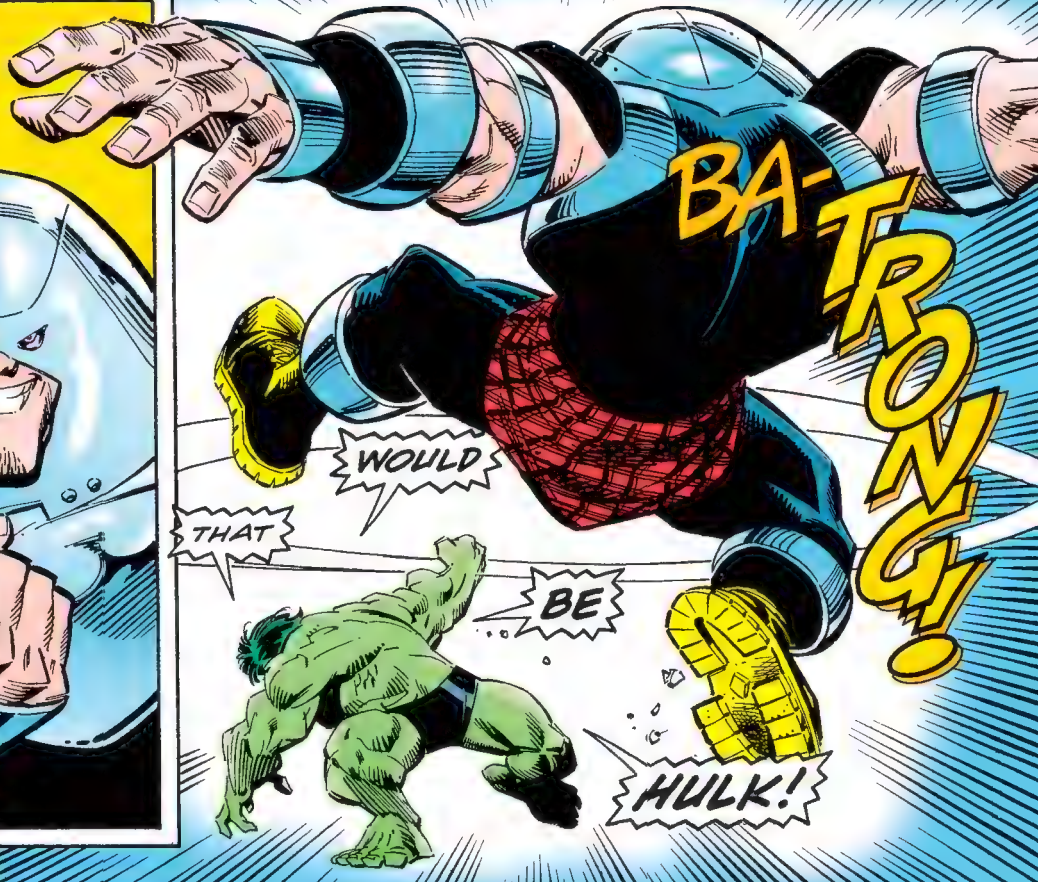
I LAID THE HULK OUT WITH ONE SHOT!

WOW!

WHO DA MAN, HUH?



WHO DA MA--



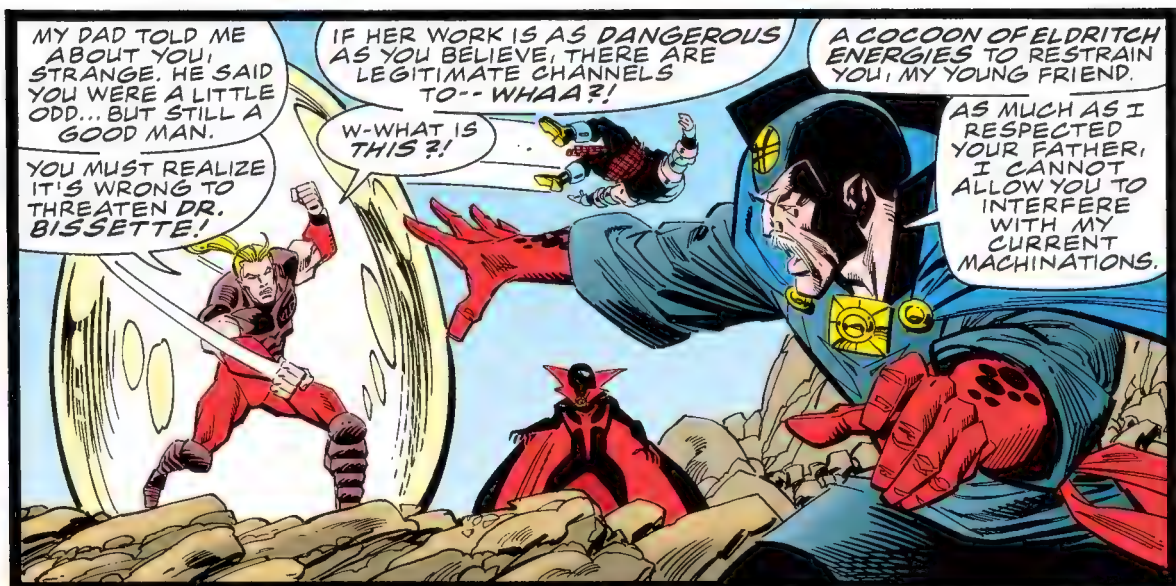
BA-T-RONG!

WOULD

THAT

BE

HULK!



MY DAD TOLD ME ABOUT YOU, STRANGE. HE SAID YOU WERE A LITTLE ODD... BUT STILL A GOOD MAN.

YOU MUST REALIZE IT'S WRONG TO THREATEN DR. BISSETTE!

IF HER WORK IS AS DANGEROUS AS YOU BELIEVE, THERE ARE LEGITIMATE CHANNELS TO-- WHAA?!

W-WHAT IS THIS?!

A COCOON OF ELDritch ENERGIES TO RESTRAIN YOU, MY YOUNG FRIEND.

AS MUCH AS I RESPECTED YOUR FATHER, I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO INTERFERE WITH MY CURRENT MACHINATIONS.



I'M TRULY SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY.

IN CASE YOUR CRYSTAL BALL'S ON THE FRITZ, I SHOULD WARN YOU THAT MY POWERS ARE ALSO BASED ON MAGIC!

100% ASGARDIAN APPROVED!

SHR

KOW!



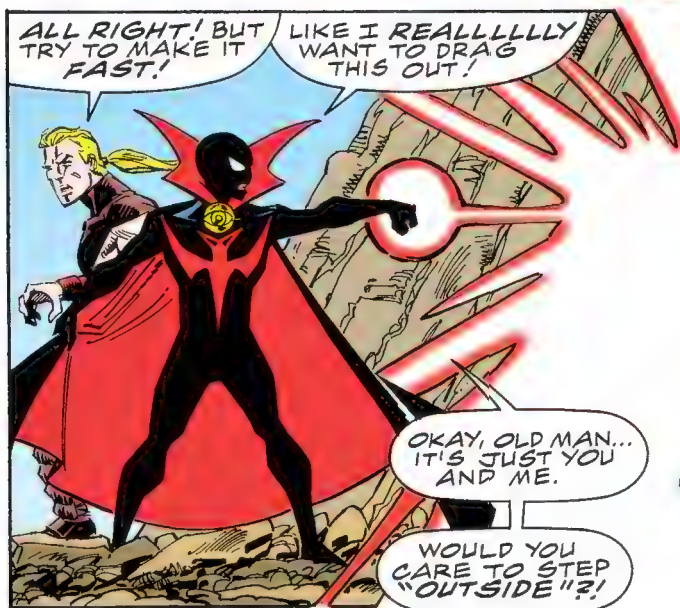
NOW PLEASE-- CALL THIS OFF BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!

YOU'RE ONLY WASTING YOUR BREATH, THUNDERSTRIKE! REJOIN YOUR TEAM! I'LL HANDLE STRANGE.

HE'S MY PROBLEM!

B-BUT--!

TRUST ME! I CAN END THIS BATTLE.



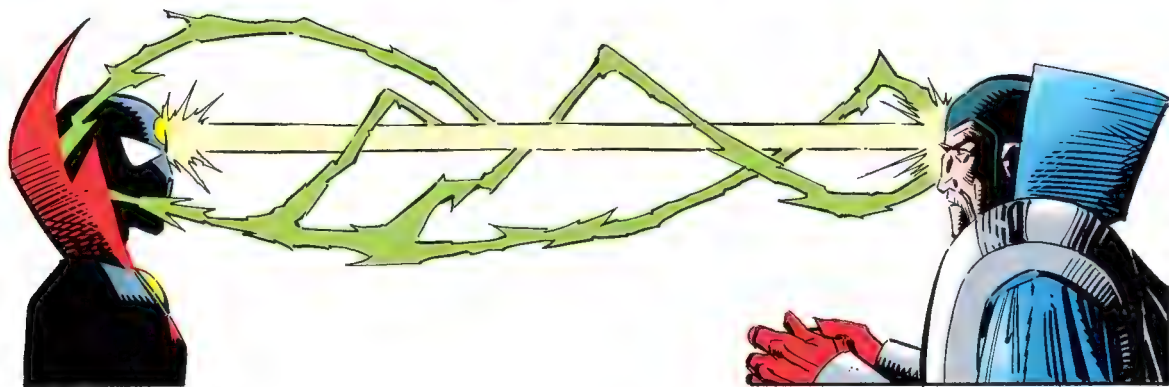
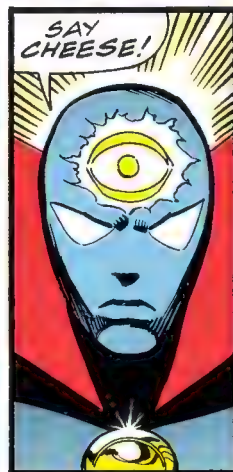
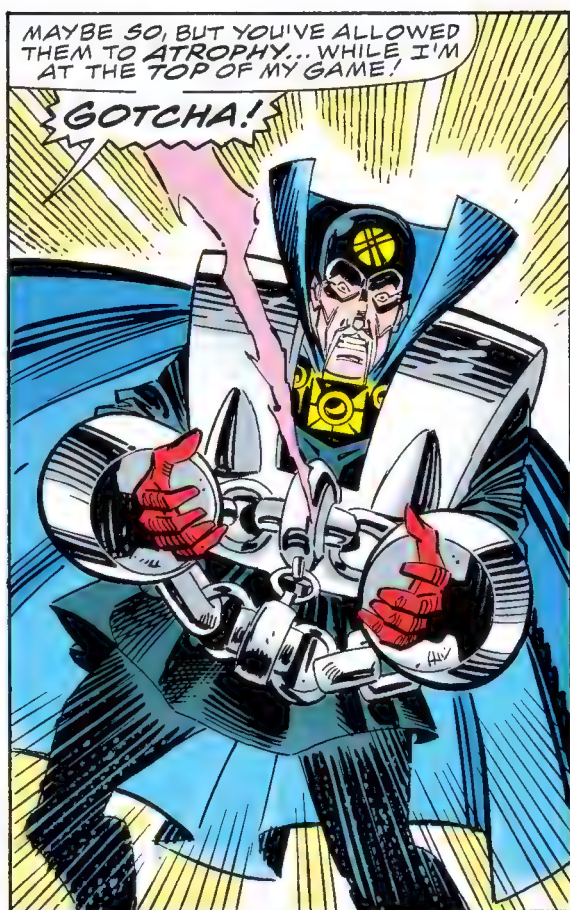
ALL RIGHT! BUT TRY TO MAKE IT FAST!

LIKE I REALLLLLY WANT TO DRAG THIS OUT!

OKAY, OLD MAN... IT'S JUST YOU AND ME.

WOULD YOU CARE TO STEP "OUTSIDE"?!







L-LIKE
A BUG!

H-HE
SWATTED
ME ASIDE
LIKE I WAS
A STINKIN'
BUG!

C'MON, JUGGIE! GET
IT TOGETHER, AND CON-
FRONT YOUR MORTALITY
ON YOUR OWN TIME!

WHAT'S
OUR STATUS,
STINGER?

OUR BOY HERE JUST
LEARNED HE ISN'T AS IN-
VINCIBLE AS HE THOUGHT,
AND MAINFRAME--

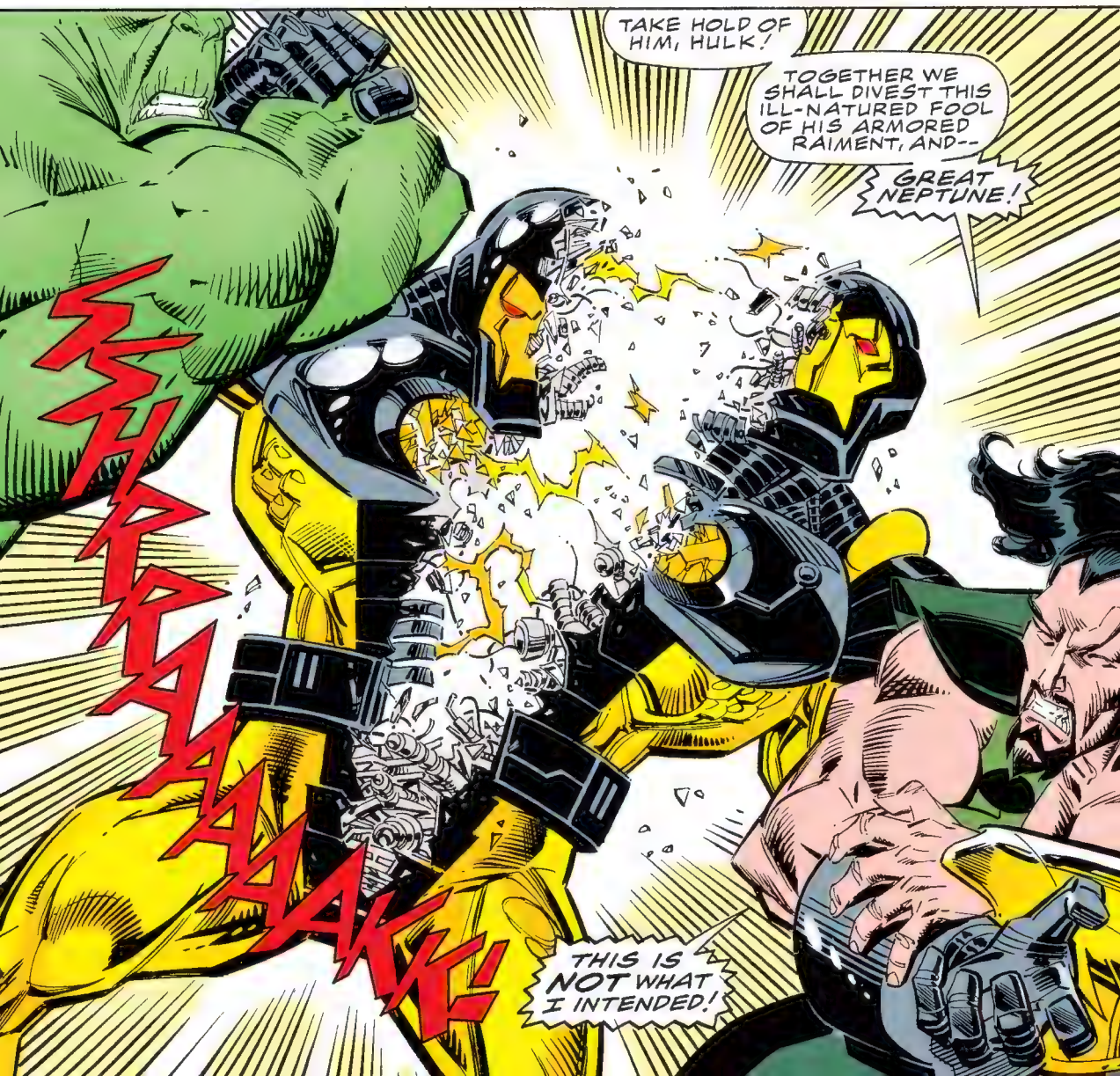


"-- HE'S GONE ALL SCHWARZENEGGER
ON TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS
ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH."

I WARN
YOU FOR
THE LAST
TIME! YOU
MUST SUR-
RENDER
BEFORE--

SILENCE!

I, WHO FOUGHT WITH--
AND BESIDE--THE ORIGINAL
IRON MAN, WILL NEVER
CRINGE BEFORE A SHODDY
REPLICA LIKE YOU!

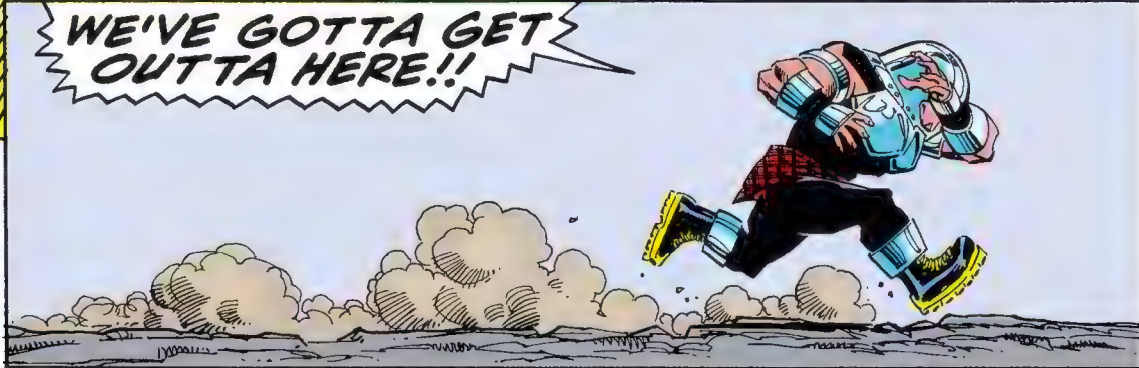
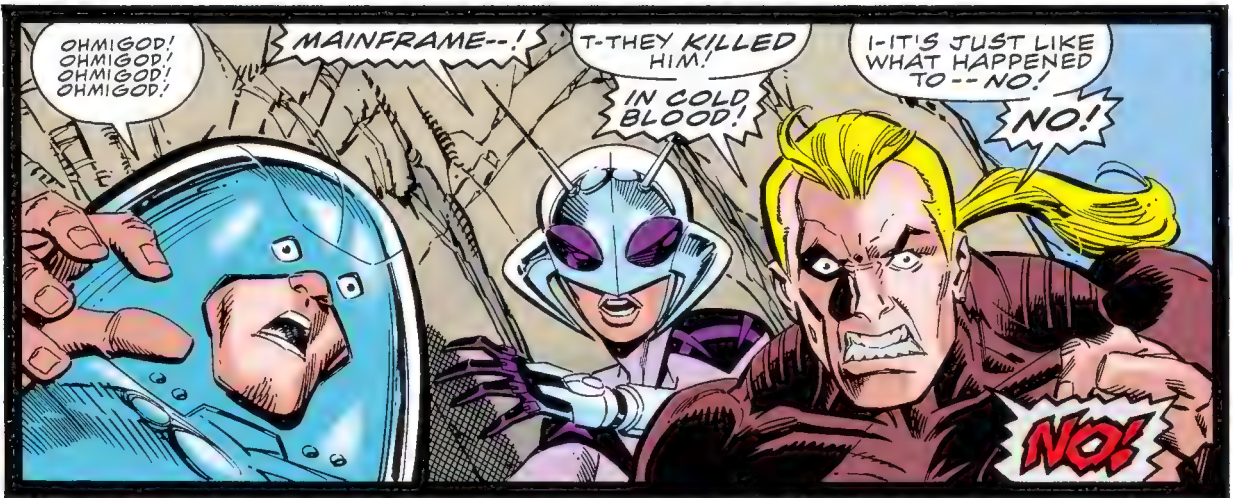


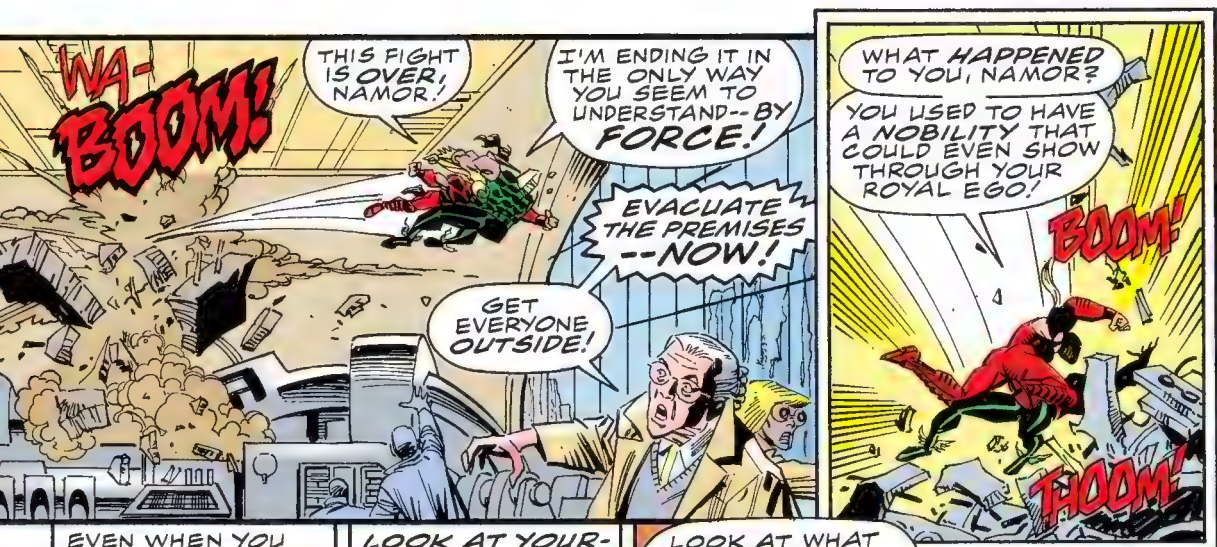
TAKE HOLD OF
HIM, HULK!

TOGETHER WE
SHALL DIVEST THIS
ILL-NATURED FOOL
OF HIS ARMORED
RAIMENT, AND--

**GREAT
NEPTUNE!**

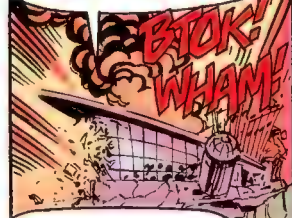
**THIS IS
NOT WHAT
I INTENDED!**





EVEN WHEN YOU
LEVELED LATVERIA,
SOME OF US UNDER-
STOOD YOU WERE
AT WAR--

--AND WE SYMPA-
THIZED WITH THE
LOSSES INFLICTED
ON YOU!



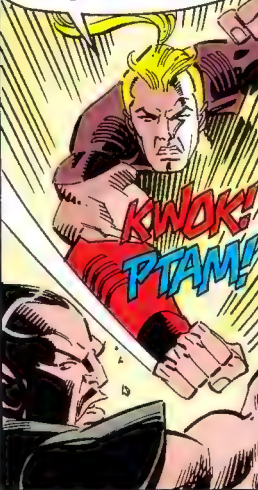
DR. BISSETTE,
YOUR WORK--!

HUSH,
CHILD--!

THIS IS ONLY
A TEMPORARY
SETBACK!

LOOK AT YOUR-
SELF, NAMOR!
YOU'VE SPENT
YEARS HIDING
FROM SIGHT--

--ALLOWING GRIEF
AND RAGE TO FES-
TER AND KILL EVERY-
THING DECENT
INSIDE YOU!



LOOK AT WHAT
HATRED HAS DONE
TO YOU! YOU WERE
ONCE A KING--

--BUT NOW YOU'RE
ONLY A LOUSY
LEG-BREAKER
FOR DOCTOR
STRANGE!



WHO
ARE YOU
TO JUDGE
ME, WHELP?!



WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU, NAMOR?

YOU USED TO HAVE
A NOBILITY THAT
COULD EVEN SHOW
THROUGH YOUR
ROYAL EGO!

ME, I'M NOBODY!
MY OPINION DOESN'T
REALLY MATTER!
BUT, JUST FOR
THE RECORD...

HOW DO
YOU JUDGE
YOURSELF?!



T-THEY
KILLED
HIM!

L-LIKE HE WAS
NOTHIN'!

WHERE ARE YOU
GOING, J2?

THE BATTLE'S
IN THE OTHER
DIRECTION!



MAINFRAME--?!

B-BUT I
SAW--!

I KNOW WHAT YOU
THINK YOU SAW...
BUT IT WAS A
ROBOT.

Y-YOU'RE
STILL
ALIVE?!

I... I AM
FINE!

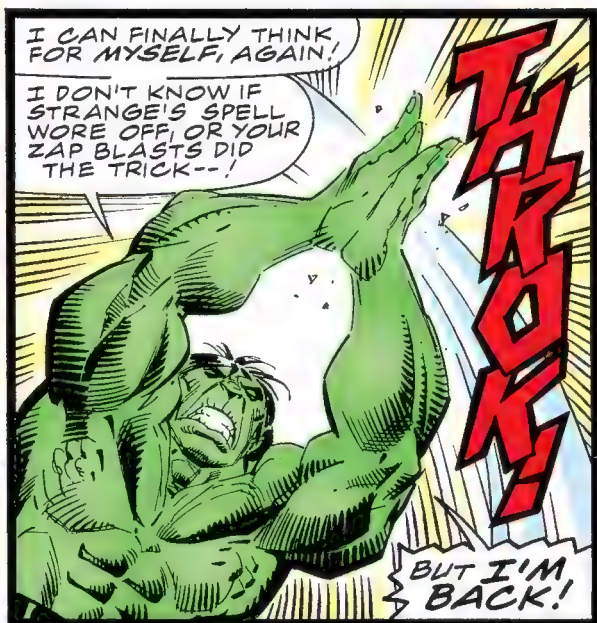
THEY ONLY
DESTROYED A
LIFELESS SHELL.



JUGGIE--?!
THUNDER-
STRIKE--?!
ANYONE--?!
BZART!
ZORPH!
BEEZAK!

A LITTLE BACK-UP
WOULD BE MUCH
APPRECIATED!

A-ATLAST!
MY HEAD
IS STARTING
TO CLEAR!



I CAN FINALLY THINK
FOR MYSELF, AGAIN!
I DON'T KNOW IF
STRANGE'S SPELL
WORE OFF, OR YOUR
ZAP BLASTS DID
THE TRICK--!

THROK!

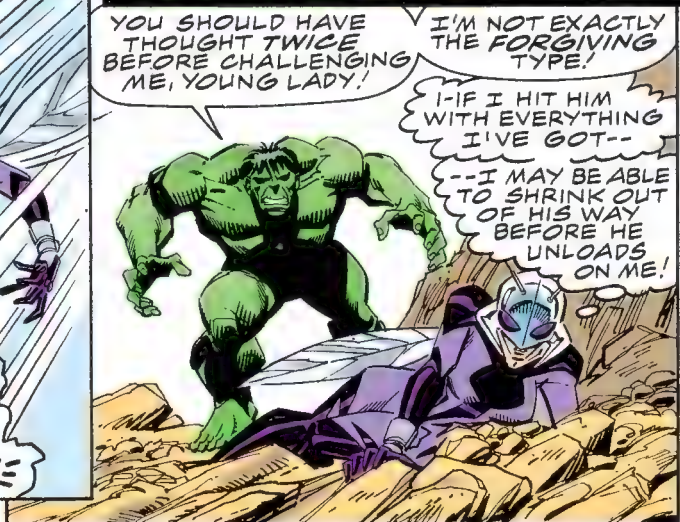
BUT I'M
BACK!



AND I AIN'T REAL
HAPPY!

KOOONK!

EUHHHHE

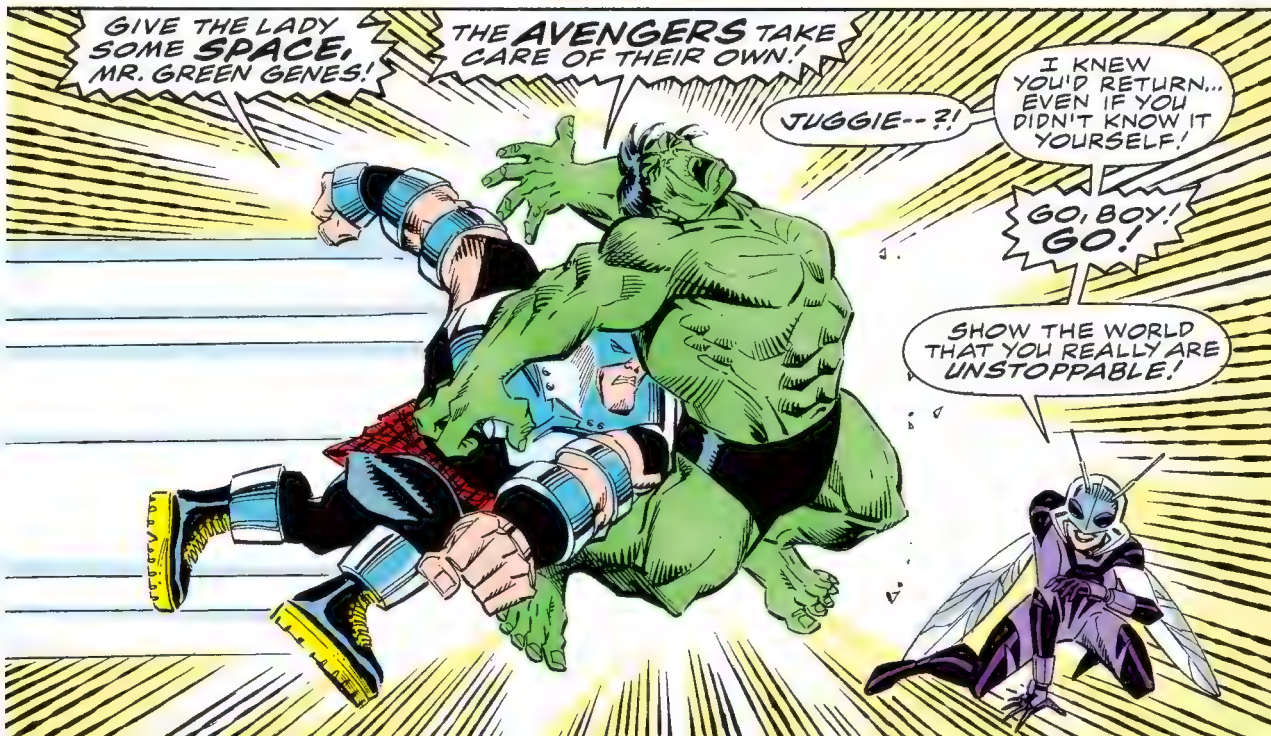


YOU SHOULD HAVE
THOUGHT TWICE
BEFORE CHALLENGING
ME, YOUNG LADY!

I'M NOT EXACTLY
THE FORGIVING
TYPE!

I-IF I HIT HIM
WITH EVERYTHING
I'VE GOT--

--I MAY BE ABLE
TO SHRINK OUT
OF HIS WAY
BEFORE HE
UNLOADS
ON ME!



GIVE THE LADY
SOME SPACE,
MR. GREEN GENES!

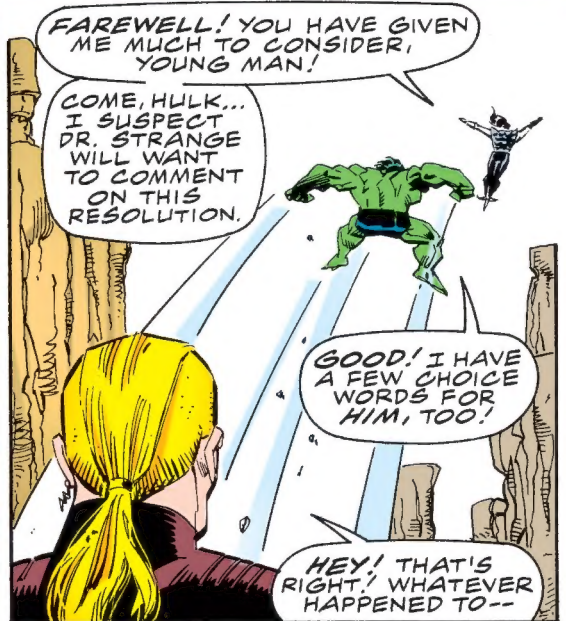
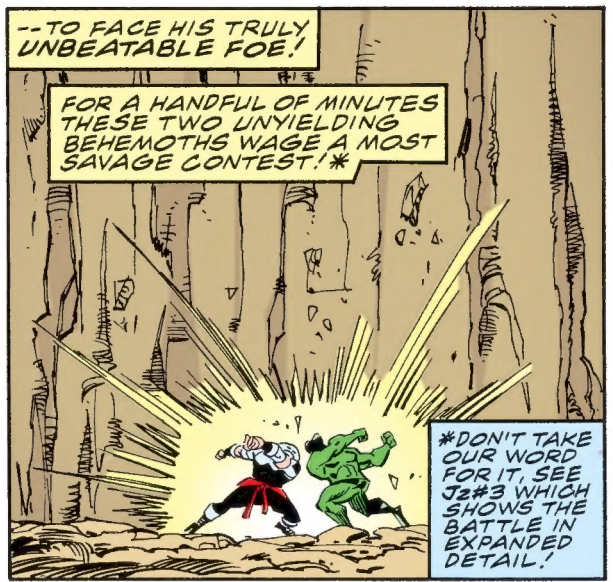
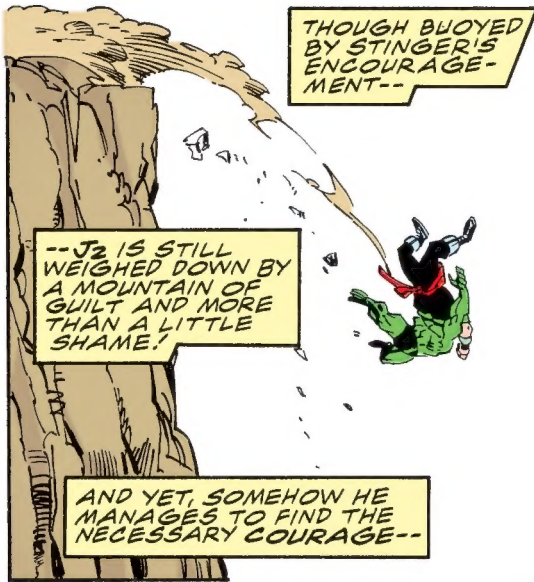
THE AVENGERS TAKE
CARE OF THEIR OWN!

JUGGIE--?!
I KNEW
YOU'D RETURN...
EVEN IF YOU
DIDN'T KNOW IT
YOURSELF!
GO, BOY!
GO!
SHOW THE WORLD
THAT YOU REALLY ARE
UNSTOPPABLE!

I KNEW
YOU'D RETURN...
EVEN IF YOU
DIDN'T KNOW IT
YOURSELF!

GO, BOY!
GO!

SHOW THE WORLD
THAT YOU REALLY ARE
UNSTOPPABLE!



"-- STRANGE AND THE MAGUS!!"

I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

I KNOW!

THE EYE DOES NOT LIE, DORMAGUS.

ONLY IF YOU MEAN IT WAS MY INTENTION TO PROD NAMOR BACK INTO PROACTIVITY... PROVIDE YOUR NEW AVENGERS WITH A BAPTISM OF FIRE... AND GIVE DR. BISSETTE A NEW START.

WHAT ABOUT THE HULK?

JUST REMEMBER THAT THINGS ARE SELDOM WHAT THEY SEEM!

I HATE WHEN HE DOES THAT!

HE HAS A DESTINY TO FULFILL.

AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SHARE, RIGHT?

YOU HAD THIS WIRED FROM THE START--!

A FEW HOURS LATER, BACK IN NEW YORK...

THE AVENGERS RULE!

LOKI! THE KREE SENTRY! AND NOW THE DEFENDERS!

J2 SEEMS RATHER EXUBERANT.

I'M TELLIN' YOU GUYS... WE BAD!

BUT HE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME... AND I CAN GUESS WHY!

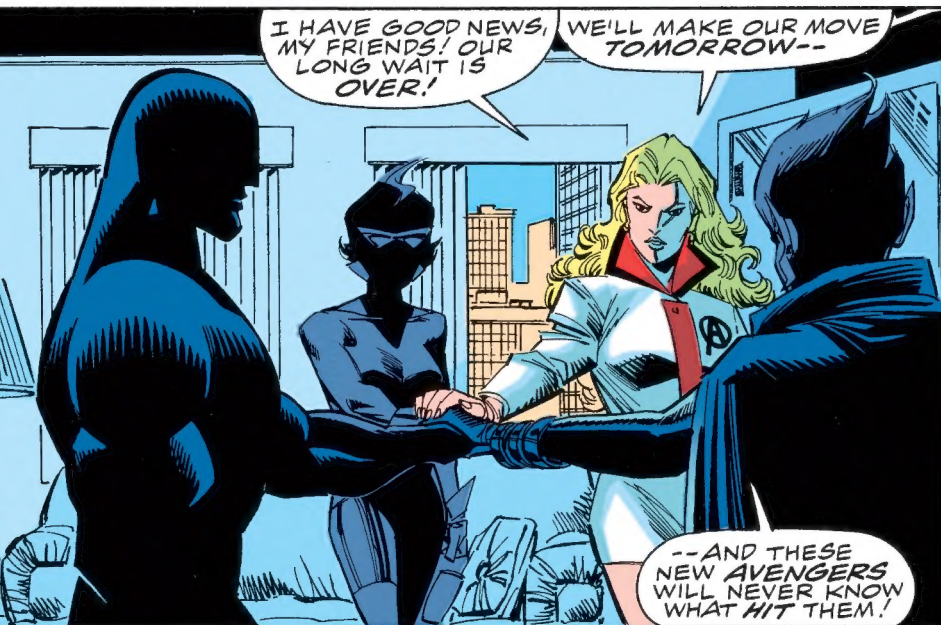
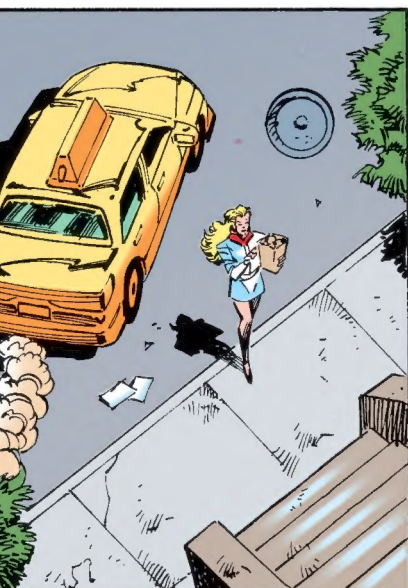
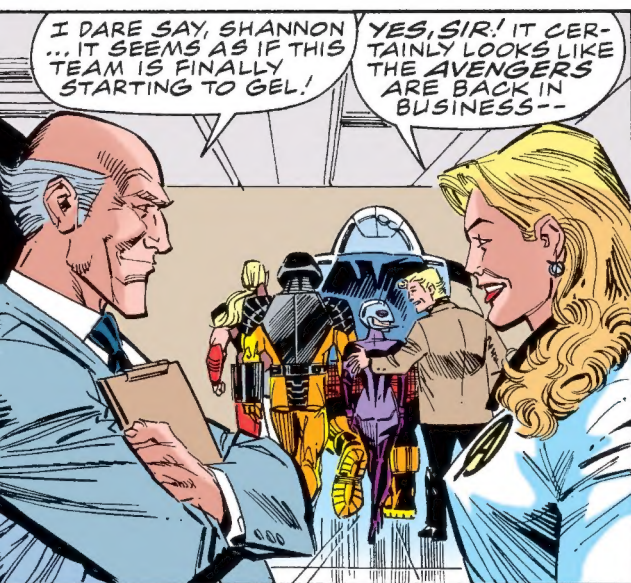
AS LONG AS WE'RE TALKING, I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT ROBOT.

I DO... AND I PROMISE TO REVEAL EVERYTHING... AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

I'M ASSUMING YOU HAVE A REASON FOR KEEPING SECRETS.

FOR NOW, I THINK WE SHOULD JUST CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY.

OKAY, I'M WILLING TO WAIT... BUT ONLY FOR NOW!



NEXT ISSUE:

HOO-BOY! HAVE WE GOT A FULL BOOK PLANNED FOR YOU! ASIDE FROM LEARNING MORE ABOUT MAINFRAME, AND SEEING WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STINGER HAS A LITTLE CHAT WITH J2... WE'RE ALSO GOING TO INTRODUCE SOME COLORFUL NEW CHARACTERS... MEET A CERTAIN SUPER HERO FROM WAKANDA... AND SHAKE UP OUR CURRENT LINE-UP!

Shadowcat

